compete on the basis of their inherent strengths and Capabilities.

(d) Such complaints are referred to the concerned State Governments as they are the nodal agency for the implementation of the Janta Cloth Scheme for which subsidy is given.

Statement

Details regarding the No. of mills closed in the country and in Gujarat, the number of workers, spindlage and homage as on 31-12-88.

	In Gujarat	All India
Total Cotton man-made fibres Textile Mills	119	1053
Closed Textile Mills		
Workers affected due to closures	35	138
	55634	169554
% of idle to total		
(a) Spindles	28%	14%
(b) Looms	30%	18%
(c) Workers	24%	14%

Soviet Assistance for Modernisation of Jute Industry

284. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for getting technical and commercial assistance from Soviet Union for modernisation-cum-diversification programme of Indian jute industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) Birla Jute and Industries Ltd. (India) and Odessa Jute Mills and other Soviet Participants (USSR) have agreed to establish a joint venture in India at Bally Jute Mills belonging to Birla Jute and Industries Ltd. and for this purpose necessary statements have been drawn up with regard to following:

(i) Production programme and projected profitability
(ii) Modernisation and Captial Expenditure
(iii) Projected balance-sheet and financial statements
(iv) Provision for taxation
(v) Details of profit and distribution of dividend including repatriation to U.S.S.R.
(vi) Maximise exports to U.S.S.R. and other countries. The new company named Birla Odessa Inds. Ltd. will be registered in Calcutta under Indian Laws.

Setting up of a Biosphere reserve in Great Nicobar Island

285**.** SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Island Development Authority has decided to set up a bios phere reserve in Great Nicobar Island; and

(b) if so, what are the salient feature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRON' MENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Biosphere Reserve has been set up in Great Nicobar Island w.e.f. 6.1.1989.

(b) The salient feature of the Biosphere Reserve are as follows :

(i) The total geographical area covered - by the Biosphere Reserve will be 885 sq.kms. Out of this, there will be two core zones, one each of 520 sq.kms. and 185 sq.kms. respectively. The toal core zone will be 705 sq.kms.

(ii) It will have two buffer zones adjoining the respective core zones covering an area of 90 sq.kms. each. The total buffer zone will be thus, 180sq. kms.

Non-traditional sectors

286. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that non-traditional sector have emerged as major areas of export growth during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and

(c) what steps are proposed to sustain and improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNISHI): (a-) Yes, Sir. (b) A Statement is attached. *[See* below]

(c) A series of initiatives have been taken to promote exports of all products including non-traditional items. These are designed to generate surpluses for exports, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make the exports profitables. It is expected that these measures would not only sustain but also further improve the situation.

Statement

(Value : Rs. Crores)

Commodities	April-Sept. 1987 (P)	April-Sept. 1988 (P)	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
Marine Products	258.00	290.63	+32.63	+12.6
Readymade Garments	779.37	879.78	+100.41	+12.9
Leather & leather Mfrs.	491.31	695.63	+204.32	+41.6
Chemical & related Products	329.67	687.46	+357.79	+108.5
Gems & Jewellery	1251.17	1845.42	+594.25	+47.5
Sports Goods	9.94	31.88	+21.94	+220.7
Engineering Goods	606.89	961.78	+354.89	+58.5
Total	3726.35	5392.58	+1666.23	+44.7
Total Exports:	7411.26	8986.92	+1575.66	+21.3

P : Provisional Source :
DGCI&S, Calcutta

Raids Conducted by the Officials of The Income Tax Department

287. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several raids were conducted by the officials of the Income Tax Department all over the country on the 18th January, 1989 to unearth undisclosed income;

(b) if so, what are the details of cash, jewellery and other incriminating documents seized during these raids and also the detail's of persons from whose premises such materials were seized;

(c) whether it is also a fact that four major builders of Bombay were arrested in this connection;

(d) whether it is also a fact that ten